

Members Update Newsletter - February 2023

INPUD to host side event as part of the 65th session of the CND (Commission on Narcotic Drugs) on Friday 17 March 2023

We are delighted to be present at the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), as this year is a significant one INPUD because, after years of advocacy, we have been granted ECOSOC status. On **Friday, March 17, 2023, from 9.10 to 10 a.m. Vienna time**, we will hold our first official side-event under the name of our own organisation, **Pandemic Prevention, Preparation and Responses: What it Means for Individuals who Take Drugs**. Look for more information on all our channels, and we hope that many of you will be able to join us remotely.

Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award

On February 16, INPUD and INSHU opened the submission window for the Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award. The award, which is now in its second year, was created to honour Jude Byrne and to recognise the efforts that young women who identify as such are doing to promote the betterment of lives of people who use drugs. We encourage young people who identify as women to apply for this award or to propose other young people who meet the criteria because we believe it is a fantastic opportunity for growth and development. The submissions close on 16 March 2023. [Read more about the award here.](#)

Appointment of Anton Basenko as new INPUD Board Chair

Anton Basenko was appointed as the new INPUD Board Chair. He joins a strong Executive Committee with Louise Vincent as Vice Chair and Hassan Turaif as Treasurer. We look forward to the future stewardship of the Executive Board, Board, and Executive Director Judy Chang as we build on past achievements and lessons learned to take INPUD forward into the next phase of our development with our Strategic Plan 2021- 2024. [To find out more about our board, click here](#)

INWUD Narcofeminism Blog Competition Winners

On 08 February 2023, The International Network of Women who Use Drugs (INWUD) announced the top three winners of the **Narcofeminism Blog Competition “Our bodies, Our choice, Our rights, Our voice”**. The first prize went to Emily Arnold, for her submission of *Junkies, sluts, and feminists: where are we in the witch legacy?* the second prize went to Jessica Spratt, for her submission *Owning My Pleasure* with the third prize being awarded to Violet Maodi, for *Stigma and discrimination have no place in my life*. To read more about the winners and their submissions, [click here](#)

Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 technical briefs available

Community leadership engagement is emphasised throughout the Global Fund Strategy 2023–2028. It encourages investments in community-driven solutions, including community-led monitoring, and emphasises the need to expand support for organisations led by people who use drugs. New mechanisms are in place in this funding round to assist communities in influencing their nation's funding requests. This Grant Cycle 7 technical guides describe the new focus features, provide an overview of the critical tasks involved in creating a country request and grant applications, and offer advice on how people who use drugs can exert the most impact possible during those procedures. [Click here to read more about the Grant Cycle 7 technical brief.](#)

Global Fund Complaints Mechanism (OIG)

The Global Funds Complaints Mechanism (OIG) is a tool that people who use drugs can utilise when reporting issues of corruption, fraud, human rights violations, mismanagement, and misuse of Global Fund funding to ensure that they are investigated and resolved. By speaking out about alleged wrongdoings and irregularities, people who use drugs will be able to influence how Global Fund money is spent, improve programming and quality of services, ensure that medicine and health products are reaching people who use drugs, advance meaningful participation of our community in Global Fund processes, and hold people/institutions accountable. [Click here to read more about the Global Fund Complaints Mechanism.](#)

Legal Environment Scan

On 31 January 2023, INPUD introduced the first, user-friendly legal evaluation tool geared particularly toward people who use drugs. Regardless of the substance we choose to put in our bodies, drug users are aware of the legal and policy changes required to protect their rights and those of everyone. We need to gather evidence on the harmful effects of current drug policy measures, especially evidence that amplifies the lived impacts of criminalisation, stigma, and discrimination, to advocate for legal and political changes. A crucial first step in the fight for the emancipation of drug users is the usage of the Legal Environment Scan by groups and networks of people who use drug around the world. [To read more on the Legal Environment Scan, click here.](#)

INPUD in the Media

ON 21 March 2023, Our Executive Director, Judy Chang, had an opinion piece published in the BMJ Journals. The piece is titled *Rigid opiate agonist treatment programmes risk denying people their agency*. In it she calls for “Greater flexibility is needed to create more person-centred care in drug treatment services, but the prohibitionist ideas that underpin clinical practice need to be tackled too.” [You can read the whole piece here.](#)

The Robert Carr Foundation Consortium Monitoring Evaluation and Learning workshop

From 31 January to 01 February members from the AfricaNPUD, ENPUD, NAPUD, LANPUD, SANPUD and WRADA and the INPUD Secretariat met at the Rembrandt Hotel in Bangkok. They had a workshop about **The Robert Carr Foundation Consortium Monitoring Evaluation and Learning**.

INPUD staff engagement

From February 2–3, 2023, the INPUD Secretariat met at the Rembrandt Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The team had never actually met in person before. The INPUD Strategic Plan 2021–2024 was the primary topic of discussion during the interaction. Together with their individual annual function plans, the team also share ideas for populating the monitoring and evaluation tracker, making it into a living useful tool.

From our members

On 04 February 2023, members of **PKNI (Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia)** held an engagement of people who use drugs with the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 process.

On 13 February 2023 Shaun Shelly the **Board Chair for SANPUD (South African Network of People Who Use Drugs)** was part of the panel that launched the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs. [Click here to read more on the launch and the commission.](#)